

Partly cloudy weather. Possibly showers tonight and Tuesday; stationary temperature.

NO. 871.

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 16, 1898.

ONE CENT.

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CABLE COMPANY'S DENIAL

French Agent at Martinique Makes a Statement.

AMERICAN MESSAGE NOT HELD

Claimed That Captain Cotton Preferred to Send His Dispatches via the English Cable, Despite the Fact That There Was Twenty-four Hours' Delay.

Paris, May 16.—The Matin says that the French cable agent at Martinique has telegraphed to deny positively the charge that the dispatches of Captain Cotton, of the United States auxiliary cruiser Harvard, were delayed by the French authorities.

"Captain Cotton," the agent says, "asked to be informed of the telegraphic route to Washington, and was told that it was from Port de France via Haiti. He refused to send dispatches by that route on account of the presence of a Spanish torpedo boat which was then lying at Port de France, telling the American consul in the presence of M. Lalung, the chief of our branch, that he preferred to send his dispatches by the English company, despite the fact that there was twenty-four hours' delay by that route."

Statement From Darle.
St. Pierre, Martinique, May 16.—To whom it may concern: I certify that the agent of the French cable company never stated to me that dispatches from St. Pierre to the New York Journal would have to suffer a delay of twenty-four hours.

GEORGE DARLE,
United States Consul.

The foregoing is addressed to Captain Cotton, of the United States auxiliary cruiser Harvard.

SPAIN'S VAIN HOPE.

Thinks the Powers Should Refuse to Recognize the Havana Blockade.
Madrid, May 16.—The government declares that the blockade of Cuba cannot be recognized as effective, and hopes that the European powers and the states of Central and South America will refuse to recognize it.

DULL DAY IN THE HOUSE.

Army Promotion Bill Passed Under Suspended Rules.
The House consumed the first half of the opening hour today in small matters. A bill providing for promotion in the Army was called up by Mr. Hull. It increases the adjutant general's staff one assistant, with the rank of colonel, and one with the rank of major.

The rules were suspended and the bill passed.

LEE AT RELIGIOUS SERVICE.

Demands for a Speech Refused by Pastor Hoge.
Richmond, Va., May 16.—Fifteen hundred persons visited Lee Camp yesterday. Rev. Dr. Moses D. Hoge at 5 o'clock delivered a sermon to the soldiers in the auditorium on the grounds of the camp. The large building was crowded to its utmost capacity, the troops occupying the lower floor and the general public the galleries. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and Governor Tyler occupied seats on the stage, and both were greeted with the wildest enthusiasm as soon as they made their appearance.

Dr. Hoge's discourse was eloquent. He did not refer to the war except in an incidental way. At the conclusion of the religious exercises there were loud calls upon General Lee to make a speech, and he was about to rise to decline when Dr. Hoge, turning to the audience, said: "This is a place of worship. There must be no speech here." The large crowd then filed out of the building.

Honors to Ensign Bagley.

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 16.—The Mountain Club of this city today started to raise a memorial fund in memory of Ensign Worth Bagley, the first American officer killed in the war with Spain. The Mountain Club headed the subscription list with \$100, and a number of prominent citizens contributed various amounts.

Prominent Virginian Dead.

Richmond, Va., May 16.—Major Fred R. Scott, one of the most prominent and wealthiest citizens of Richmond, died yesterday. He was president of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad and prominently connected with the Richmond and Petersburg banks and important business enterprises in both cities.

Our low prices are proverbial. Libbey & Co., Lumber, 6th and N. Y. Ave.

TWELVE PERISH IN A FIRE

Lives Lost by the Burning of a Hospital.

BODIES OF SIX RECOVERED

The Metairie Hospital at St. Hyacinth, Canada, Totally Destroyed—Novitiates and Boarders Among the Dead and Missing—Physician's Wife Jumps From a Window.

St. Hyacinth, Quebec, May 16.—A hospital owned and conducted by nuns, known as the Metairie, was completely destroyed by fire this morning, and it is believed that twelve people have perished. Six bodies have been recovered from the ruins.

The origin of the fire, which broke out at 1 o'clock, is unknown. Among those who perished were three young women who had about completed their novitiate and were about to take the veil.

Those known to be dead are two boys named Beauchemin, aged 10 and 8, the three novitiates and Mrs. Guertin, a boarder. The missing are two servants, another woman boarder and two sisters, Bouvier and Augé.

The wife of Dr. Chagnon, of Fall River, Mass., jumped from a third story window and died from her injuries.

The building was valued at \$20,000 and was not insured.

THE ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS.

It Now Shows a Total of Seventy Thousand Mustered-in Troops.
Today reports show that 70,000 volunteers have been mustered in. In many cases the equipment is incomplete and the work of perfecting it is being hurried. This is especially the case with the regiments assigned to the Manila expedition. Final arrangements for the Philippine expedition are nearing completion. Gen. Egan, commissary general of subsistence, has about completed the purchase of subsistence supplies required for the movement. They can be located as soon as the transports are ready.

THE DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS

Shoes Are Sadly Needed by the Soldiers at Falls Church.

RAIN FLOODS THE CAMP

Men Are Excused From Guard Duty Because Their Feet Are Exposed.
An Urgent Appeal Is Made to the War Department—High Wind and Throats of Visitors.

Woodburn Manor, Va., Headquarters Washington Times, May 16.—Rain fell in torrents this morning and flooded the entire camp. Major Urell, out of regard for the men, had those on guard recalled and sent to the guard tent out of the storm, while orders were given for all persons to make fast the tent lines, as a high wind prevailed.

Water flowed in streams down the company streets and overflowed the trenches dug to protect the tents. The storm lasted for nearly two hours.

Visitors began to arrive as early as 11 o'clock and as it is generally understood that orders to leave Washington will come in a day or two relatives and friends are taking advantage of the opportunity to say farewell. As usual, activity is everywhere about the camp. The quartermaster's department under Adjutant James L. Mock, has the bulk of the work and the heavy Army wagon makes constant trips to Dunn Loring, the freight station, for supplies and equipments, for the companies which are expected to join those now in camp.

There is considerable trouble experienced in camp through the lack of proper clothing. Many of the men are without sufficiently strong shoes and a great number have bare feet protruding through the soles. This has been the subject of investigation and as it is greatly detrimental to the health it was decided today to line the men up before the surgeon and have those without good shoes excused from all guard duty.

Capt. W. T. H. King, Company B, was the first man to carry out the order. Accordingly he sent his company to the hospital where Dr. Clifford Cox excused fully a third of the number. Their feet were wet and nearly every one of them had his feet exposed. The next step was to have Dr. Cox write a letter which accompanied a requisition to the War Department for shoes. The War Department stated some time ago that clothing and equipment would not be issued until the regiment was mustered in, but Major Urell has determined to make an urgent appeal for the shoes.

Torpedo Boat Porter Leaves Haiti.

Cape Haitien, Haiti, May 16.—The torpedo boat Porter, of Admiral Sampson's squadron, which arrived here last evening, sailed during the night, together with the refrigerating boat Supply, which has on board fresh provisions for the squadron.

Murdered Man Identified.

Camden, N. J., May 16.—The Renner found murdered at Verona Lake is Edward, not Elmer, Renner, of Brooklyn, near Camden. He has been living in Newark for some time. He has five wives living in different parts of the country. Renner's father left here this morning for Newark to get the body of his boy.

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prices in the city for "quality" Lumber.

BRAINERD'S MISSION FAILS.

New York Newspaper Men Still Held by the Spaniards.

Key West, Fla., May 16.—Lieut. Brainerd, who went to Havana on the scout boat Uncas to negotiate in behalf of two New York newspaper men, captured by the Spaniards last week, returned this morning, having accomplished nothing.

This is vouched for by the correspondent of the London Times, who was on board Lieut. Brainerd's ship. No landing was effected, so the Times man says.

NO FIRING HEARD.

Sensational Stories From the New England Coast Denied.

Portsmouth, N. H., May 16.—There is not the least particle of truth in the reports sent out from here of heavy firing being heard off this coast yesterday afternoon.

Nothing of the kind occurred, nor have any warships or strangers been sighted off this immediate coast.

WAR REVENUE MEASURE

Mr. Allison Explains the General Provisions of the Bill.

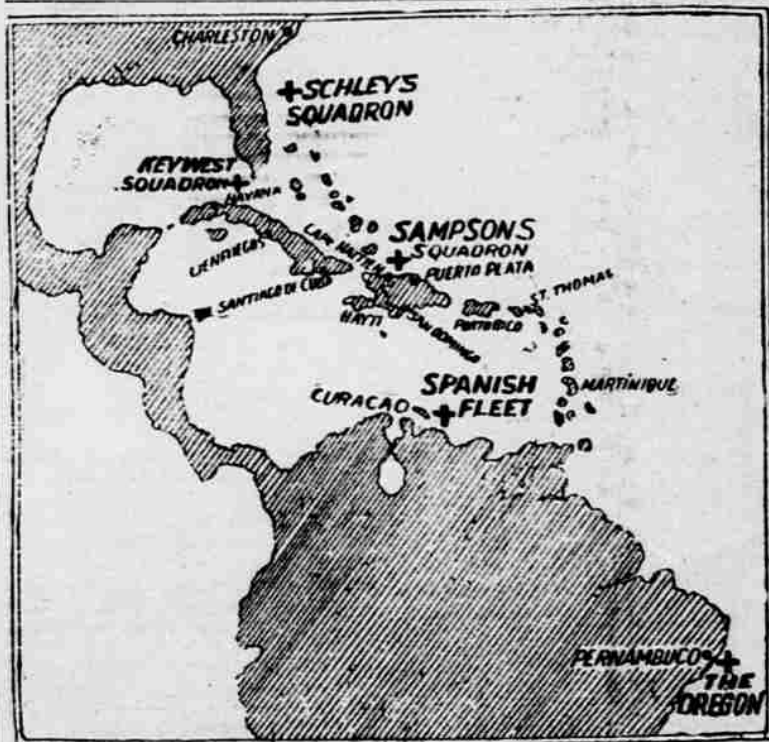
THE ECKINGTON RAILROAD

Mr. Pettigrew Offers an Amendment Limiting the Franchise of the Railway Company to Twenty Years—He Makes a Determined Argument.

It was ten minutes to 1 o'clock when the war revenue measure was called up in the Senate today and made the unfinished business.

The bill relating to the extension of the Eckington Railroad which had been laid before the Senate with the understanding that it should not give rise to debate was amended by Mr. Pettigrew, who also made a long speech. It was evident that the bill was to be contested and Messrs. Allison, Hale and Aldrich protested against its further consideration.

The Pettigrew amendment limits the franchise to twenty years and also provides that the Government or the District of Columbia may, at the end of five years, purchase this line without paying anything for the franchise. He called up this amendment and moved to strike out five



THE POSITIONS OF THE RIVAL FLEETS.

years and insert ten years. He said his purpose in doing this was to stop the 99-year term of perpetual charters for street railroads.

Mr. McMillan said that the District Committee, which had given a great deal of time and study to this question, had decided that it would be unwise at this time to hamper these companies by such limitation.

Mr. Chandler thought a twenty-year franchise was long enough, but he was desirous of voting for the proposition in one general bill affecting all the roads in the District. But he should not vote for a five or a ten year limitation, as he said it would prevent the investment of capital.

Mr. Pettigrew said that this argument was the one always used by city councils and all other legislative bodies when they wanted to grant valuable franchises to any one. He denounced it and declared that in his opinion the franchise was valuable enough to interest capital if the franchise should be so limited.

He further declared that if the railroad bills should pass the Senate without his amendment, in ten or fifteen years they would be capitalized for from \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000 more than the actual investment, on which the people who patronized them would have to pay interest.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 11 to 35.

Mr. Pettigrew then offered another amendment providing that the franchise should be for a term of twenty years.

Mr. Allison again objected to its further consideration, urging the importance of the war revenue bill. The bill was then called up and the railroad bill again went over.

Mr. Cockrell presented a petition, signed by 300 Missourians, protesting against the issue of interest-bearing gold bonds, and reciting that the greenbacks should be issued to carry on the war, that policy of the war revenue bill, Lincoln was valuable enough to interest capital if the franchise should be so limited.

national revenue during the next year of not less than \$50,000,000. When the measure came to the Senate committee, examination proved that it needed a sharp overhauling to produce sufficient revenue. The committee, regardless of political division, agreed that the measure was imposed by the House should be eliminated.

Mr. Allison said further that the bill was framed because the country was at war and it was necessary to realize additional revenue. All hoped the war would be over in a few weeks, or at least in a few months, and what it would cost could only be approximately estimated. The Secretary of War and Navy had furnished statements. The former thought it would cost for one year: \$105,000,000 for the Regular Army and volunteers. The Secretary of the Navy, for the same period, said about \$75,000,000 would be required in addition to the sums voted already for the support of the Navy. To this Congress had added \$50,000,000, which was placed at the disposal of the President March 3, 1888. The fortifications bill was also increased upwards of \$4,000,000 for the fiscal year.

Mr. Allison summed up by saying that the Army and Navy would cost for the year \$130,000,000—that is, to June 30, 1899; and he feared the estimates were more likely to be too low than too high. War, he added, was very costly and it was important that the unity of action should prevail at such a time. Referring to Secretary Gage's opinion that the receipts from imports would be \$200,000,000, Mr. Allison said it was too high. He would be greatly surprised if import receipts exceeded \$150,000,000, and he feared the estimate of \$200,000,000 for postal receipts was also too high.

Mr. Allison looked for a deficit during the fiscal year, so far as imports were concerned.

Mr. Allison expressed the opinion that the bill as reported would yield more than \$150,000,000 in revenue.

COMING TO WASHINGTON.

New Jersey, New York and Western Troops Ordered Here.

The orders for the concentration of troops at Washington were issued today in connection with the appointment of Gen. Guenther as commandant of the camp.

The troops will start as soon as possible after receiving their orders and will probably arrive in this city some time this week.

The regiments ordered here are as follows: First Regiment, New Jersey volunteers; the Sixty-fifth Regiment, New York; the Sixth, Eighth, Twelfth and Thirtieth Regiments, Pennsylvania; and the Sixth Regiment, of Illinois.

SPAIN'S CABINET RESIGNS.

Sagasta Requested to Form a New Ministry.

Madrid, May 16.—Senor Sagasta this afternoon handed to the Queen the resignation of the entire cabinet. Her majesty

requested Senor Sagasta to form a new cabinet.

The Cortes will be informed of the action of Senor Sagasta and the Queen and the sitting of the chamber was suspended until evening.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE SEIZED.

Spain Takes Possession of the Canary Island Station.

Liverpool, May 16.—The Spanish authorities have seized the telegraph office at Grand Canary Island.

Only the simplest commercial messages will be allowed to pass and no cipher dispatches will be accepted or forwarded.

SMOKELESS POWDER NEEDED.

Spain Said to Be Better Supplied Than America.

The engagement at San Juan has called attention again to an important defect in our naval service—the absence of smokeless powder. The reports received at the Navy Department show that in this particular our Navy is seriously handicapped.

Spain has equipped all her vessels with this ammunition, and it forms an important part of the ordnance supplies for the land fortifications.

The Naval ordnance officers have devoted a good deal of attention to the invention and manufacture of a smokeless powder of their own, and it was on this work that Lieut. Bernardou, of the torpedo boat Winslow, was engaged at the outbreak of hostilities.

Our danger was shown particularly at Porto Rico, and has been shown in all engagements participated in by the blockading vessels. Our ships are immediately enveloped in a cloud of thick smoke after firing a gun, which renders the training of the guns a matter of great difficulty and makes the vessel firing an easy target for the enemy.

At San Juan the reports show that great difficulty was encountered in locating the land batteries. This was due to the fact that no smoke followed the discharge of the guns.

The Weather-Libbey & Co. say—Partly cloudy; possibly showers.

THE WAR BOARD

Criticism of Its Conduct of Affairs Is Heard.

CHANGES MAY BE MADE

Naval Officers Feel That Mistakes Have Been Made.

SPAIN'S SUPERIOR STRATEGY

The Enemy Quick to Take Advantage of Our Weak Points, and Able to Avoid the Strong Ones. Her Movements Kept Secret, While Ours Are Published to the World—Efforts to Maintain Strict Secrecy.

There is more and more openly expressed dissatisfaction at the Naval War Board in the War and Navy Departments. It is thought very probable that some radical change may be made in the personnel and methods of the board within a short time.

As stated in The Times this morning, naval officers are saying that mistakes have been made and that apparently nothing is accomplished by the Navy in Cuban waters. Meanwhile the Army is waiting for the Navy and also is idle. The campaign for the freedom of Cuba is at a standstill.

If the report is true that three more Spanish warships are in the West Indies it is only another of many recent proofs of the superior strategical ability of the Spaniards, it is said.

From the beginning Spain has kept this country in the dark as to her moves and appeared suddenly at unexpected places to the overthrow of plan after plan on this side. The United States, on the other hand, has not been able to keep secret any of its campaigns good or bad. The weak ones have been seized by Spain and the strong ones avoided or out-generated.

Secretary Long on Saturday suggested to Captain Crowninshield that he give orders that no one in the Navigation Bureau converse with newspaper men on naval subjects. Secretary Long realized that too much information was getting into the newspapers. Captain Crowninshield made necessary by some of the newspapers which have abused the privileges granted them, and issued a sweeping order very different from Secretary Long's idea.

The order as issued forbids naval officers from conversing with newspapers on any subject. Even the social amenities are barred.

The naval officers are making a vigorous protest, and probably Captain Crowninshield's idea will not be carried out. The officers consider the order a personal affront and a reflection on their honor.

Captain Crowninshield is also a member of the naval War Board, and his soreness over the criticisms of the board's work is suggested as the probable reason for this exhibition on his part. Secretary Long's suggestion was as follows:

"I suggest that you consider the propriety of your issuing an order that every person, naval or clerical, in your bureau be forbidden to have any conversation upon naval subjects with representatives of the press; and that you give the press notice that the rule will be strictly enforced, but that you will post bulletins of such facts which have actually occurred and are not connected with existing or projected movements as are proper for publication, as soon as possible after knowledge of them is had."

Capt. Crowninshield made the order similar to this, except that all communication with newspaper men of any nature whatever is forbidden.

Dissatisfaction is expressed freely in another direction at the apparent inability of the Administration to keep up with the political strategy of Spain and the other European countries. A New York business man thoroughly familiar with European politics and also with the American Navy said to a reporter for The Times this morning:

"I believe it would be a most fortunate step on the part of this Administration if it would call to Washington as a special political adviser ex-President Harrison. The ability of Harrison as an international lawyer is unquestionable. He is thoroughly familiar with European politics, also, and would grasp the entire situation as it now is with a firmness and a clearness of insight that no man now in the Administration is capable of."

"Further than that I believe the Administration should have as an adviser a thorough newspaper man. Spain and the American newspapers now beat the Administration itself in learning of the movement of the American fleets. A newspaper man—not a theorist—taken into the confidence of the Navy Department would be a most satisfactory addition to the staff."

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mediately out of the business could do admirable service to the Administration if he were attached to Secretary Long's office, for instance.

"A third suggestion is that Admiral Walker be put on the Naval War Board. He is a practical commander, a sea dog. If he were on the board its work would be more successful. There would be practical strategy instead of literary strategy and the war would show more results."

INQUIRY ABOUT CURACAO.

Netherlands Minister Summoned to the State Department.

Secretary Day summoned the Netherlands minister, Mr. De Weckerlin, to the State Department this morning for a conference regarding the long stay of the Spanish squadron at Curacao, which is under Dutch sovereignty.

Holland was the second country to proclaim neutrality in the current war, having followed quickly upon Italy's declaration.

No fear is expressed that the government of Curacao would willingly give aid to the Spaniards but it is feared that the latter may extort what they need from the little colony by force majeure, and if that is the case, the United States cannot make any protest which will be effectual until after the close of the war.

ON TO THE PHILIPPINES.

Secretary Alger Says First Expedition Will Set Sail Friday.

Secretary Alger said this afternoon that the first expedition to the Philippines would leave San Francisco on the City of Peking Friday.

The steamer will carry probably 1,500 soldiers. As rapidly as they can be mustered the other troops of the Philippine force will be sent to the front.

Four transports for this expedition have been secured. They are the City of Sydney, City of Peking, Australia and Centennial. The carrying capacity of the four with arms and ammunition is about 5,500.

The Centennial is now at Seattle and the advisability of starting her from there is being considered.

PROMOTION OF A SOLDIER

Col. Francis L. Guenther Becomes a Brigadier General.

TO COMMAND AT FALLS CHURCH

Since 1880 He Has Been Commandant at Washington Barracks. He Has Had Forty-four Years' Military Service, and His Elevation Is Satisfactory to the Army.

Col. Francis L. Guenther, of the Fourth Artillery, commandant of Washington Barracks, was this morning appointed a brigadier general.

Gen. Guenther will have command of the encampment of volunteers at Falls Church, Va.

Major General Sewell was at first assigned to the command of the camp, but having declined the major-generalship in order to retain his seat in the Senate, the camp was left without a commander till General Guenther was chosen.

The selection is looked upon by Army officers at the War Department as one of the best that could be made.

General Guenther has had forty-four years' service in the American Army on the frontier, during the civil war and in command of barracks and camps.

He was born in Buffalo, N. Y., February 22, 1854. He was appointed a cadet in the Military Academy July 1, 1874, and graduated July 1, 1876. He was brevetted second lieutenant of the First Artillery on the day of graduation, and was made second lieutenant of the Fourth Artillery on November 2, following.

He served at the Fort Monroe Artillery School for practice in 1879-'80, and at Harper's Ferry in the suppression of the John Brown raid in 1859, after which he saw service on frontier duty at Fort Randall, Dakota.

His service during the civil war was gallant. He was in the West Virginia campaign of 1861; at Camps Wood, Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Corinth, Miss.; the operations in Alabama, and all the movements through Tennessee to Louisville, under Gen. Rosecrans.

He was with the Army of the Cumberland, 1862-'63; the advance upon Tullahoma, Tenn.; the operations about Chattanooga; in camp at Nashville, and at the United States Military Academy, in 1864-'66.

THE OREGON SAFE.

Navy Department, However, Refuses to Divulge Her Whereabouts.

The Navy Department heard from the battleship Oregon this morning. The department will not divulge the whereabouts of the battleship, but naval officers say that no fears are entertained for her safety.

It is believed that the Oregon is at Pernambuco.

GOING BACK TO MANILA.

Gunboat McCulloch to Leave Hong Kong Tomorrow.

Hong Kong, May 16.—The British cruiser Pique has gone to Hilo. The United States gunboat McCulloch will return to Manila tomorrow.

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Libbey & Co. sell best selected Lumber less than inferior grades cost elsewhere.

MUST FIGHT OR RUN

America's Ships Closing in on the Spaniards.

MAY BE TWO FLEETS

Second Division of the Enemy's Squadron Reported.

THE WAR BOARD IS ANXIOUS

Belief That Three More Spanish Cruisers Have Reached Martinique Causes Uneasiness—Plans to Head Off Villamil—Believed He Is Making for Cienfuegos to Land Supplies for Havana-Sampson Is Watching the Windward Passage.

The great war question of the hour is how to capture or destroy the Spanish fleet now in the Caribbean Sea.

The latest information regarding the movements of the Spanish ships is that they have left Curacao. Of course their destination is unknown, and can only be guessed at.

It is believed at the Navy Department that the Spanish fleet will do all in its power to avoid combat until the mission which brought it across the Atlantic is accomplished. This is declared to be the convey of transports for the relief of Blanco at Havana.